

SALUTE TO THE
ARTS
IN PLYMOUTH

Published by Associated Newspapers of Michigan © 2018

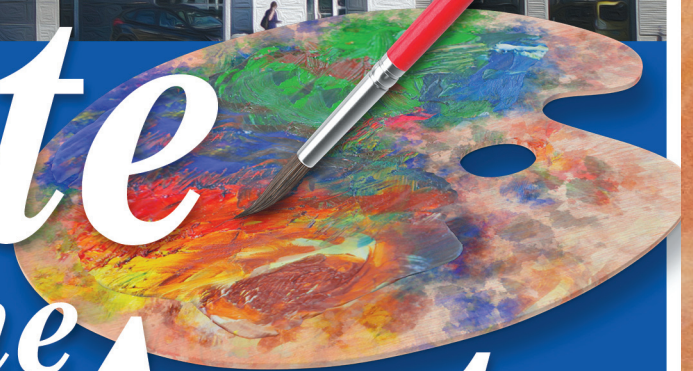
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The Art of the community

There are few places a world-renown artist can be found enjoying a quiet cup of coffee or taking a walk through the park without attracting some attention or where one of the most famous orchestra conductors in America can shop without being noticed by other customers.

Plymouth and Plymouth Township, where some of the best-known artists in widely diverse fields make their homes, is becoming a phenomenon as painters, musicians, dancers and artists in various disciplines enjoy the home-town atmosphere.

Plymouth has quietly developed a reputation as a community where arts and artists can quietly flourish. It has become widely known and celebrated throughout the state and country for the wealth of artistic talent and art education centered in the community.

These are just a few of the artists, art teachers and art projects which have contributed to the growing reputation of Plymouth as a respected haven for artists. There are many more celebrated artists here who are just as well-known and as accomplished whom we hope to feature in the future.

For now, enjoy this introduction to some of the prominent artists of Plymouth.

Let's begin with The Michigan Philharmonic



The Michigan Philharmonic

World class professional orchestra calls Plymouth home

The roots of the Michigan Philharmonic go very deep in the community, dating to 1945 postwar America.

"Colony Farms Barn was one of the first places they did concerts," said Beth Stewart, executive director of the Michigan Philharmonic, formerly known as the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra.

In the 1940s and early 1950s, leaders began "creating and shaping this organization to become one of the finer

orchestras in the state," said Stewart, a Plymouth Township resident on the job 10 years. The proximity of Plymouth to the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Wayne State University and Eastern Michigan University means, "We have a lot of people who've had good training."

The first conductor of the orchestra was Paul Allen, with Wayne Dunlap following and then Russell Reed, each with long tenures. For more than 50

years, the orchestra conductors were primarily from the music faculty at Eastern Michigan University. When Reed retired, leaders mulled a change to a professional orchestra with a full-time director:

A national search led to hiring current conductor/music director Nan Washburn. "We're a fully professional orchestra," said Stewart.

The Michigan Philharmonic,

See **Philharmonic**, on page 2

Philharmonic from page 1

renamed some six years ago to better sum up the purpose of the group, as a “per service” orchestra with union musicians hired for each concert.

“Each musician is not making much considering they have master’s degrees and sometimes more,” Stewart said.

Musicians are paid to rehearse too, and music rental/purchase adds up, Stewart said, as do the legal rights to perform music.

“Composers have to make a living like everybody else,” she said.

Opportunities opened at the Canton Cherry Hill Village Theatre, and the organization had a Canton suborchestra there. When the 2008 recession hit, funding the suborchestra became burdensome and concerts were in both Plymouth and Canton at varied venues with the name Plymouth-Canton Symphony Orchestra.



First Michigan Philharmonic conductor Paul Allen conducts the orchestra at a concert in 1950 at Plymouth High School, which became Central Middle School and is now the home of the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex.

“It got us thinking,” Stewart said. “Essentially we had everything in place to move to that next level” when a Detroit music writer asked about the name.

“Our name was holding us back,” she said. A one-year study included

some board pushback but “They did a 180 and said ‘I see it.’”

A Detroit Symphony Orchestra strike a few years back opened doors for the Michigan Philharmonic, including performing at Metroparks. This year, “Hot Summer Nights” venues



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The orchestra played in the gymnasium at the former high school in a 1965 concert, where the Michigan Philharmonic now makes it's home.

include Plymouth Kellogg Park and Belle Isle with the Kensington and Lake St. Clair Metroparks.

The Michigan Phil offers school music programs in the Taylor, Van

Buren and Plymouth-Canton districts, thanks to help from partner Wayne County Community College District. The Belleville/Ted Scott Campus has hosted mostly youth performers, and

leaders hope to expand to the downtown Detroit Main Campus and do more with Detroit Public Schools.

See **Philharmonic**, page 4



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Philharmonic from page 3

As a “nomadic orchestra” moving musicians, instruments and equipment to different venues, the PARC planned 800-seat auditorium is supported by Michigan Philharmonic leaders.

“That is the future that can be for us,” Stewart said of efforts to raise private money and a November ballot issue to supplement the construction of the performance hall.

“We all want to live in communities that value arts and culture. In Michigan, those are the ones that are growing. They (millennials) want a place that's walkable. They want to have things in their own community,” said Stewart, who believes the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Michigan Philharmonic are complementary.

The Michigan Philharmonic has performed concerts in Brighton and leaders find Kensington Metropark

”
*We all want
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concerts mean the regular year season attracts Brighton, Milford and South Lyon residents.

“They're willing to follow us around a bit,” said Stewart.

“Outdoor audiences are always different,” she said. The 5,000-6,000 crowds require stage/sound equipment like a rock concert.

“People actually come in their chairs to sit and listen,” she noted.

The Campus Martius concerts are where the Michigan Philharmonic is less well known, and after Kensington

Metropark concerts it's “When are they coming next year?” said Stewart, who said she is proud of the depth and variety of music the orchestra performs.

Livonia residents Carol and Guy Snyder enjoyed a Michigan Phil concert a couple years ago at the First United Methodist Church of Plymouth. Peter Soave, who plays the accordion and more, was featured.

“It was excellent. He's always excellent,” said Carol Snyder, a retired teacher and vocalist.

More information about the Michigan Philharmonic is available at www.michiganphil.org or by phone at (734) 451-2112.

The offices of the orchestra are located at 650 Church St., Plymouth, MI 48170, in the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex (PARC). Email inquiries can be sent to info@michiganphil.org.



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Tony Roko

Giving back

Renown artist uses foundation to inspire, teach children

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Artist Tony Roko, a product of Plymouth-Canton Community Schools, is proud to call Plymouth his home.

"I love it," said Roko, 48. "It has been the perfect community to raise children in, and they're very much a part of this community." His two sons are 16 and 14.

His family immigrated from Montenegro (the former Yugoslavia) and Albanian is his first language. Roko, who worked 28 years for Ford Motor Co., attended Field Elementary, East Middle School and graduated from Salem High School in Plymouth-Canton.

"They were refugees," he said of his parents, who traveled to a refugee camp in Rome, Italy, and then to Detroit.

*"I think I was pleasantly
relieved to see
how well I was received
in my own home town."*

"My parents are still alive. We're doing good. It takes a generation or two sometimes," Roko said from his airy studio in the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex (PARC) in downtown Plymouth.

"I guess I'm a lifer," the downtown Plymouth resident added with a smile.

His mural work at Ford factories where he originally hired in at 18 to work on the assembly line, has been part of a plant beautification project.

"They brought me on; they picked

up on my artistic abilities. The Fords are a very progressive organization. They were green before it was cool. I think Bill Ford (Jr.) was at the forefront of that movement. It was an initiative to boost employee morale."

He didn't understand that concept at first, but now agrees that it worked. While nothing has been finalized or is definite, he said that some more mural projects are being entertained.

His Plymouth studio, he said, is a destination for those seriously interested in his artwork, which is now in the homes of collectors across the country.

"Most of the people that come in are interested in purchasing the work," he said.

Some walk-ins also find their way, with varied portraits and more, some on easels, around the spacious studio

See **Roko**, page 6

Roko from page 5

with its high ceiling. “The work is mostly figurative. I’m working on creating and evolving my own personal body of work,” he said of his “vision and voice as an artist.”

“I think I was pleasantly relieved to see how well I was received in my own home town. The support was overwhelming.”

The nearby Starkweather Lofts development has been branded with his work.

“So basically it’s been a pleasant surprise to be so well received,” Roko said. “I think PARC’s initiative (a destination arts center) can be one of the most vital components to a thriving community. What is a community without culture?”

“I was pleasantly surprised to see they were so open to the avant garde and basically raw approach to my creations,” he said.

He said he was impressed with Ford Motor Co. hiring architect Albert Kahn for buildings in the early days, as well as muralist Diego Rivera in the 1930s for work at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

“I think time and again Ford has been the company of the Big Three that has continually showed integrity,” he said. “Their commitment to their employees is really a reflection of them being a family-owned company and their legacy.”

The Great Recession bailout decline and severance packages have been positives.

“I think the purchase of the (Detroit) train station is another example of that, to preserve that history,” he said.

Roko, who drives a 1965 Ford F250 truck (40,000-some miles), notes pros and cons of going to an auto plant from high school.

“Creation is kind of the opposite of that. You can spend hours trying to articulate concepts as an artist,” he noted of his former work being quantifiable. “I’ve had to learn to adjust to



Tony Roko concentrates on his artwork at his Plymouth studio.

that.”

He added, “Work ethic was measured on how fast you could dig a ditch; I’ve had to sort of recalibrate.”

“The concept of art and a working artist was abstract to my parents. Their world revolved around needs, and you can’t eat paintings.

“I think we’ve all learned something really valuable about pursuing your passion and purpose. I don’t believe they had that luxury, and I’m grateful they got us here,” he said of himself and his two brothers.

“I can also understand paintings don’t sell in refugee camps. I’ve been

able to push boundaries because there weren’t boundaries put in place by professors and such. In the same breath, I would have loved to have had a formal art education. Above all, I do believe creative vision is a mode.”

His Ford factory murals, indoor and outdoor, were done with automotive applications and he now uses more environmentally appropriate paint. He’s featured on Atwater Brewery of Detroit beer artwork.

Roko’s especially proud of his Art Foundation, doing work with Detroit Public Schools, foster home youth, those rescued from human trafficking,

and cognitively impaired people.

He shows a master image each student ranks on subject, color palette, and style, using one to five for an individualized result.

"A synthesis, we call it a mashup. The reference is based in master works," he explained of the foundation work.

He's proud, too, of 1950s Ford-commissioned Norman Rockwell work, and of a Detroit Institute of Arts decision not to paint over working class Diego Rivera murals despite political pressures.

"We know that wasn't the case with the Rockefeller Center" in New York City, he said of those former Rivera murals.

Roko shows his work of a pet store worker he portrayed in a top hat and coattails. "He went out and bought a top hat and coattails. I prefer to see the grandiose things in the ordinary," the frequent listener to Nina Simone radio



Rony Roko and a group of students display some of their artwork created at his studio now located in the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex.

and other music said.

He finds inspiration in facial expressions, especially as an English as a second language learner and speaker. Classic photography, silent film, fashion and architecture inspire

him, although "I see extraordinary things in what some may consider ordinary people."

Roko is a five-consecutive-year Detroit Fine Artist of the Year honoree from Hour Detroit magazine.

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College for Creative Studies thrives in Plymouth

Jane Stewart of the College for Creative Studies (CCS) is pleased the school expanded to the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex last fall.

"We're absolutely over the moon to be in Plymouth," said Stewart, director of pre-college and continuing studies. She lives near the Detroit Zoo, and is very impressed with the enthusiasm for the arts in Plymouth.

"The parents and the students are amazing," said Stewart. The Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex now hosts a variety of CCS classes at the former Central Middle School building, 650 Church St. in downtown Plymouth. The College for Creative Studies website at www.ccsclasses.com offers class and registration information, and information is available at (313) 664-7456

The Detroit-based College for



Creative Studies, long known for fine arts education, lists categories on the website including: pre-college summer experience, summer youth 8-13, summer teen 14-18, Plymouth Location, before and after enrichment, policies, and contact information/maps.

Under Plymouth Location, photos

with links show art students in classes ranging from Digital Illustration to Costume Design to Automotive Design. Digital Photography and PhotoShop, Computer Animation, Cartooning and Character Development, and more, all offered in Plymouth, with details at www.ccsclasses.com.

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Artist combines photos and oils for unique portraiture

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Longtime Plymouth artist Helen Yancy, known for her photography and oil painting, got an early start on her career path.

"Forever, I've had my own business since I was 14 years old," said Yancy, a 13-year resident of Plymouth Township. She lied about her age as a teen to get hired in arts, and ended up marrying the boss's son.

"I've always had a studio in residence," she said. "But the emphasis of my business is still painting."

She's online at www.HelenYancyStudio.com, and is a past president of the Professional



Helen Yancy

Photographers of America who's garnered many awards.

Yancy puts oil paint on photo paper in her work, noting photo paper works fine that way. "The canvas is the preferred way," she explained. "And we do a lot of restoration."

She can create a treasured painting, even from using a Facebook photo. Yancy wrote her book, "From Ordinary to Elegant," as a how-to.

"It's to encourage people to be strong in knowing what they do with a computer is every bit as much art," she said. Her "virtual" works are created with an electronic brush. The "From Ordinary to Elegant" book is available on Amazon.

"Why do I do it? Because I can't not do it. It's me, it's who I am," Yancy said of her art which includes extensive



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watercolor interpretations with many portraits.

"I have been teaching for years," including in Europe, mainly for Americans there. "We did classes in lots of lovely places. Japan; I've taught in Korea."

She works both from her residential studio and on location.

Yancy said she is most proud of her family, she and her husband, a former letter carrier, have four children.

"And they each have three kids. That's what I'm most proud of, my kids," she said. "The thing that means the most to me is my family. I have an amazing husband."

Her husband could be home by 3 p.m. from his mail route, a help in her work when their children were growing up. Now, "I do what I want to do. I work for people who are nice."

She's accustomed to "pushing deadlines," and has less of that now that



she's established. "I might change the fact that I worked too much," said Yancy. "I was blessed with having a profession where I could be at home."

She sees many more people working remotely now, adding, "When I first became a photographer, it was a man's world." She finds women photogra-

phers have certain sensitivity "as do men. But it's a different kind of sensitivity."

The men photographers she knew "only encouraged me, they never tried to hold me back," Yancy said.

She's received many Professional Photographers of America awards and is one of only a few Americans lauded as an invitational Fellow by the British Institute of Photography. The latter has been in part because of her leadership in creating ties between the PPA and the British Institute of Photography.

Yancy is also a member of the Portrait Society of America, Camera Craftsman of America, and the Society of XXV. She is one of fewer than 100 Fellows of the American Society of Photographers, and was honored at the United Nations with the Medallion for leadership, service, artistic and photographic ability by the International Council for Photography.



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Plymouth artist's work reflects lifetime of learning

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

Plymouth artist Kay Masini credits her mother for encouraging her love of art.

"She used to buy me lots of paper and an easel," recalled the well-known artist who holds a bachelor's degree in arts and philosophy from Dominican University in Illinois. "She had to keep me busy."

Masini had further studies at the Art Institute of Chicago and briefly in Oxford, England.

She said she was first inspired by her music teacher's husband.

"He did a portrait of his wife. I thought it was the most wonderful thing," she said. "I thought, 'Someday,'"

That someday has come, with her extensive work in group and juried

*There is
no limit to
what another artist
can teach you.*

shows in Michigan and Minnesota, solo exhibitions in Belgium and here in Michigan, numerous awards, and arts group memberships.

Masini's pleased to be in the local Three Cities Art Club, tipping her hat to its president, Marilyn Meredith. "It's growing," Masini said of the art club. "She is truly amazing," Masini said of Meredith.

Masini married right out of college, had four children, and said to her husband, "I think I will go back and do art because it's going to be cheaper than a

psychiatrist. He was very supportive. He was extremely busy with his own work."

Now married to Donald for 62 years, the couple has four grown children and nine grandchildren.

"And we still like each other which is a wonderful thing. It's been a good life."

She also worked in public relations early in her career. The couple lived for some 30 years in St. Joseph, where she was a partner in a marketing and communications firm.

"We were really pretty good," Masini recalled of the Telgroup firm, noting pride in work with the Community Education Group of Benton Harbor, near St. Joseph, and others. "It was an interesting time."

Her art has included various medi-

See Masini, page 14

Masini from page 13

ums, oil, watercolor; dry media such as pastels and chalk, and mixed. She said she works primarily in acrylics now. When younger, she repeated a class three times to learn basics, asking the instructor, "Could I be a first-class artist?" She said she's found "There is no limit to what another artist can teach you."

She recalls a "From the Brain to the Brush" class in which she learned of images "that have been collecting since you were a baby. It's fun, too."

Art shows, she said, are fun for both the artist and the audience.

"There are some things that require words. They go together. It's an exciting thing for the artist, too," to see reaction. "We hope somebody gets it. It's great fun."

She mentioned the elusive British graffiti artist Banksy's creations on



structures addressing immigration issues.

"Art can be volatile. There are so

many different types of art and artists."

Masini will have a show Aug. 1-29 at the Canton Cherry Hill Village Theatre.

She liked her Belgium work, which included another woman's poetry with calligraphy, with the art selling well. It was in an Orangery on castle grounds. "I have a lot of paintings in Europe people have bought," she said.

She likes to visit the Grand Rapids ArtPrize too, and praises patron, businessman Dick DeVos. "I think it's fabulous," said Masini, who said it pleases her when others "think about and talk about art."

Masini's a signature member of the International Society of Experimental Artists, Internationale Vriendenkring, Belgium, and of the Plymouth Community Arts Council. She published a book of original Christmas art and poetry, and has designed various book covers.



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Municipal buildings reflect regard for arts

The Plymouth community is the site of not one, but two, Pewabic Pottery murals depicting the history and tradition of the area.

The mural in Plymouth Township Hall was dedicated March 25, 2007, as a gift of the Village Potters Guild, the Plymouth Community Arts Council, and Detroit-based Pewabic Pottery.

In early 2006, the Village Potters Guild was approached by Pewabic Pottery about the project and becoming involved in the proposed mural. Joined by the Plymouth Community Arts Council, the three groups cooperatively used grant money to create the mural, according to information from the township. regarding the history of the artwork.

Members of the Village Potters Guild created the design of the Township Hall mural and more than 420 people helped create tiles, including Scout troops. Village Potters Guild members created images of area landmarks included in the designs sponsored by businesses and individuals. The local potters worked in the specialized terra cotta clay particular to Pewabic Pottery, which was donated for the creation of the tiles.

The finished Township Hall mural measures about 7 by 11 feet and includes more than 500 handmade tiles. It features township landmarks, roads, railroad tracks and a train, surrounded by textured and colorful art.

A second Pewabic Pottery mural in a Plymouth public building was installed last year in the vestibule at the district library.

"We are very fortunate to have this mural," said Library Director Carol Souchock, who's grateful to the anonymous donor who made the installation a reality. "We had a donor who wanted to celebrate the Plymouth community," she said. "This is designed specifically for our community. We worked with the architect to



Plymouth Township Supervisor Kurt Heise, above, is proud of the Pewabic Tile mural created by members of the Village Potter's Guild that graces Plymouth Township Hall. The recently installed Pewabic Tile mural at the Plymouth District Library, below, was made possible by an anonymous donor and is a permanent installation.



find different features both in the city and township," Souchock said.

"It was really an amazing experience," she said of the work. The library mural includes City of Plymouth and Plymouth Township buildings and landscapes.

An image of the Penn Theatre is

featured in the work along with the Plymouth library view facing Union Street. The downtown Plymouth clock is shown in the library mural, along with Plymouth Township Park and Miller Woods in the township as well

See **Pewabic**, page 18

Pewabic from page 17

as the Lake Pointe water tower.

Souchock noted that Genevieve Sylvia, senior designer-special projects at Pewabic, utilized the close relationship between the city and township in the mural design.

"She came up with the fact the city and township are united by the railroad tracks, for the good and the bad," Souchock said.

She was also impressed with the skill of the multi-generational tile installers, the DeSandre Brothers, who completed the work at the library.

"They were able to make our dreams a reality. The skill set they have is just astounding," she said. "I thought that was important as well, the making of the art." The finished library mural has about 650 individually made tiles.

*The art tile installation
not only honors
the Plymouth community
but the larger
metro area,
as Pewabic is a
Detroit-based nonprofit.*

Mary Maguire, library board of trustees president also considers the library mural something unique to the area.

"The art tile installation not only honors the Plymouth community but the larger metro area, as Pewabic is a Detroit-based nonprofit. Like our library, Pewabic Pottery is committed to excellence in providing education-

al opportunities, passing knowledge to those who seek it," she said.

"It's exciting to see the beauty that will be there forever," added Souchock, who considers the Pewabic library mural her legacy. "It's something people will enjoy for generations to come."

Pewabic Pottery, founded by Mary Chase Perry Stratton in 1903, offers art education and outreach. Pewabic is famous for colorful tile design work in many historic buildings and homes in Detroit. Pewabic Pottery is online at www.pewabic.org, and is located at 10125 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit 48214.

The Village Potters Guild is online at www.villagepottersguild.org. The guild is based at 326 N. Main St., and offers shows, classes and work for sale. The Village Potters Guild phone is (734) 207-8807. Emails to the Village Potters Guild should be directed to villagepottersguild@gmail.com.

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Art smart

Plymouth Arts Council offers year-round classes for children

Julie Brown
Staff Writer

There is a bit of science, some math and a lot of creativity involved in the summer art programs at the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

Young students soon become aware that experiments involved in their classes involve both science and art.

"I like doing the fun experiments and I like the teachers here," said Ivy Turnquist, 11, who'll be an East Middle School sixth-grader this fall. She's in the Plymouth Canton Arts Council Experimental Art (PCAC) summer youth camp at the building on Sheldon Road.

In the nearby "Inside Outside Upside Down" class, based on works of Dr. Seuss, Lisa Howard, PCAC executive director, said to six students, "Walk around it and see if it's interesting from all the angles. This is 3-dimensional. Your paper is flat."

The building was bursting with creative youngsters. The PCAC has Young Artists camps for ages 5-7 in summer, with additional programs for older children, up to 18, and adults.

"It differs a lot," Howard said of summer youth programming. "During the school year, we don't have a lot of time with the kids." The PCAC has drop-in school-year offerings for kids, which helps with busy schedules.

"Summertime is a time for them to just kind of unwind," said Howard, noting the creative focus of the sessions.

Outside for a picnic table snack, Turnquist was joined by friends Madeleine Haynes, 11, a sixth-grade Millennium Middle School of South Lyon student, and Charlie Palko, 9, a fifth-grader at Canton's All Saints School.

Day manager/instructor Chelsea



Chelsea Murray is the center of attention as she teaches an Experimental Art technique to children at the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

Murray of Northville was being helped in the Experimental Art class by Alexa Elkouri of Canton and Haleigh Czarnecki of Northville. Josh England of Canton fills in for Murray as day manager and is Howard's theater camp assistant.

The students crowded around the classroom table as Murray used a wax crayon for a design. She said, "The wax kind of protects it." A brush she demonstrated with created a "snowflake effect" with wax, and water on paper.

The students used water and even salt for an "under the sea" look prior to the fish design work set for the next day.

Howard, in the next room, showed the pipe cleaner "tree" designs. She shrunk Styrofoam in the oven for painting based on Dr. Seuss' "kind of fun and fantastical books."

The Experimental Art class has gone through different names, incor-



A smiling Talia Conte, 6, shows her pipe cleaner "tree" based on a Dr. Seuss book to Lisa Howard, Plymouth Community Arts Council executive director.

porating messy, experimental and science activities. "She never wanted to teach the messy class," Howard noted of Murray. "Now it's her favorite."

Clay was soon added to the pipe cleaner "trees" by students under Howard's gentle hands.

She noted schoolwork often requires following directions. Art in public school is graded, and she notes summer camp complements that in a good way.

"We like to teach them to think outside the box, to be creative. We celebrate those kids that do things in a different way."

The Plymouth Arts Council summer instructors have more time with students than school teachers do, she said. "We don't have a lot of technology-based classes," basically Filmmaking and Digital Photography. "Everything else is hands-on, no screens," emphasizing basics and creativity.



Experimental Arts campers at the Plymouth Community Arts Council settle in with instructor Chelsea Murray for the seascape portion of their June 19 morning session.

Howard agreed phone cameras can't do it all, with basics of composition, lighting and framing key.

Adult summer events include those

See **Council**, page 22



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Council from page 21

for artists as well as exhibits. Summer family concerts in downtown Plymouth Kellogg Park draw large crowds and are a longtime Plymouth Community Arts Council offering.

Howard is an artist specializing in graphic design, with watercolor, pen and ink, and a little mixed media. The Experimental Art and Pottery classes for children always sell out, and she noted that PCAC registration continues throughout summer for classes that aren't full. She said she is pleased with her summer staff, their work, and added that safety is key with first aid and CPR training.

For more information about the Plymouth Community Arts Council visit www.plymoutharts.com or phone (734) 416-4278. The office is on the east side of Sheldon Road, 774 N. Sheldon, north of Farmer Street in Plymouth.



Ivy Turnquist, 11, at left, shares a snack break outside with friend Madeleine Haynes, also 11, at the Plymouth Community Arts Council Experimental Arts summer camp June 19.

Howard studied at James Madison University of Virginia with a bachelor of science degree in arts. That's because she had two years of pre-nursing and a dean created a special major for her.

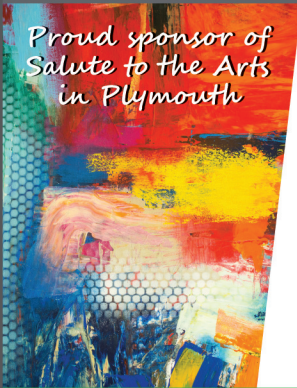
"I was really lucky because I got to take a lot of different classes. I love the combination of art and science," said Howard, who liked the botany drawing in college.

Students bring their own lunches for the summer camps, eating with staff, which gives moms an extra hour.

"We accommodate kids with special needs with one-on-one art buddies." That includes autism, ADHD, cerebral palsy and others, "all doing great stuff with our mainstream classes."

For special needs youth, email Howard at lisa@plymoutharts.com. The Colonial Kiwanis Club of Plymouth funded a grant sponsorship for the summer programming.

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Dancing with the stars

Champion dance duo dazzles the world in competitions

The stars really do dance in Plymouth.

The art of dance is no more clearly defined than at the award-winning Dance New York studio on Forest Street downtown.

There, Clive and Suzanne Phillips now share the artistry and skills that have made them respective champions in the world of dance. Clive Phillips, who has been dancing since he was 9, began his career in his home country of Australia because his sister was taking dance lessons. He deduced, at that young age, he said, that the dance studio was “where the girls were.” The classes were obviously effective, as he and his sister each became international dance champions.

He is a two-time United States National Nine Dance champion and was named the Australian National Champion. He has won more than 200 international dance competitions.

He and his wife met during an audition for *Ballroom to Broadway*, one of the multiple shows, both on stage and film, in which they have appeared around the world.

Suzanne Phillips, a 1985 graduate of John Glenn High School in Westland, has also been dancing since she was a child and has more than 30 years of dance training and performing experience, including her six years as the featured dancer at Radio City Music Hall in the Christmas and Easter shows. She is a Triple Crown American Smooth and International Standard champion, and has won American Smooth championships across the country. She was the co-instructor for ballroom master classes at the New York University School of the Arts.

The couple toured Australia in a show Clive Phillips co-created, chore-



Clive and Suzanne Phillips heat up the dance floor.

ographed and directed during their early careers.

Clive Phillips has taught many celebrities and co-hosted the 2004 World Amateur Latin Championships and the Amateur Standard World Championship with Suzanne Somers, he also co-hosted the Monaco Dancesport Championships with Marilou Henner.

He's taught numerous celebrities in the entertainment industry and has performed on both stage and screen, as has his wife. She has worked with

Tommy Tune, Liza Minelli, Sammy Davis, Jr. Jerry Lewis and has danced with Patrick Stewart and Campbell Scott.

Clive Phillips taught Rosanna Arquette, Jennifer Beals, Campbell Scott, Anita Gillette and Yancey Butler. He was named World Dancesport Series Top Teacher for 2016-17 and the Plymouth studio named the top winner the same year.

The couple returned to the area from New York several years ago with their three sons, Brendan, Dillon and Tristan and opened Dance New York, about two years ago. This is the fifth studio the couple has owned, founding their first Dance New York in New York 23 years ago.

Both the champions still travel to dance competitions across the country and the Plymouth studio is filled with their trophies and awards.

They have been joined recently by rising dance champion Jonathan Welly who left the banking industry eight years ago to pursue his art. He is the Detroit Salsa champion and has been a finalist in numerous dance competitions.

Also demonstrating the artistry of dance is Tiffany Sullivan, who grew up studying and teaching ballet. She began ballroom dancing at 12 and in 2014 was the National Champion in American Rhythm at the United States Dancesport Championships.

Ashleigh DeWeese, winner of the Top Female Teacher award, is also now teaching at Dance New York and is expected to be on the competitive circuit this year. She has been competing and performing for more than three years in the United States and Canada.

More information about dancing with the real stars is available at DanceNewYork.com.



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November 30, 2018, 8PM
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Flavorful artistry

Kitchen artisans delight diners with creative menu selections

The art of food preparation and presentation has long been accepted as a skill to be mastered and perfected and nowhere is that more evident than in the professional kitchens of Plymouth. Here, some of the finest chefs in town ply their culinary arts with food as varied as the clientele they serve.

Whether looking for American fare with an up-to-date twist or a special interpretation of ethnic Italian or Greek dishes, Plymouth offers a unique group of interpretive chefs with imaginative menus.

Plymouth restaurants continue to bring diners from throughout the area back again and again to enjoy the artists that flourish in the local kitchens.

Here are a few of our favorites. ...enjoy.

Canton Bistro
44282 Warren Road
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Creating a great experience for guests is the art of service at Canton Bistro. The family restaurant has become an area favorite.

The friendly atmosphere includes attention to service with fresh daily lunch and dinner specials served by a friendly staff in a cozy atmosphere.

The restaurant serves a traditional American menu and is accustomed to serving groups and children.

The Canton Bistro is a fun, neighborhood place where everyone is welcome and there is always something to enjoy on the wide menu of favorite dishes. The Canton Bistro offers a full menu and beverage selections in a casual setting with a clean, professional atmosphere. Parking is plentiful and the restaurant will accept reservations. There is a complete take out menu available.

All major credit cards are accepted.

Canton Bistro continues to attract a large crowd of regulars who enjoy the good food and great atmosphere with prompt, courteous service.

The bistro is open from noon until midnight on Sunday, from 11 a.m. until midnight on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and from 11 a.m. until 2 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.



E.G. Nick's
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There is an art to food preparation and presentation and one of the most popular places in Plymouth has developed a unique style welcomed by regulars and visitors alike.

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Agostini keep the menu and the atmosphere fresh and exciting.

E. G. Nicks boasts an extensive list of specially-brewed craft beers and unique cocktails, along with an impressive list of premium wines.

The menu includes items like the new Caprese ravioli, with a kale and pesto sauce that brings diners back again and again.

The exceptional flatbread pizzas offer unique toppings like bacon, lettuce and tomato or Caesar salad along with the expected traditional pepperoni and cheeses. The exceptional flatbread crust on these treats has made them one of the biggest sellers on the late-night and lunch menu, Agostini said. The imaginative new dishes like the pear and spinach salad added to the menu have drawn rave reviews from regulars.

The menu still includes the customer-favorite planked whitefish, chosen as the best in the state by food critics and



the award-winning spare ribs, Bang-Bang Shrimp and bourbon pot roast nachos.

Agostini said the menu includes several items which can be prepared gluten free and some vegan dishes, which are becoming more and more popular.

Local diners know that the kitchen often offers lunch specials, using fresh ingredients and weekends almost always include dinner specials, allowing Agostini to demonstrate some of the culinary creativity that he has displayed with his various TV appearances.

Meals range from \$10 to \$20 or so and are served in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere. The restaurant is known for the varied menu, family-friendly atmosphere and spirit of fun, whether there is a festival going on or simply a celebration because it is Tuesday.

"Food is an art," Agostini said. "We work hard to keep everything fresh and exciting."

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Welcome to Hermann's Olde Town Grille. Nick Hermann opened the OTG in September 2003. Since then, Nick and his family have worked to create a neighborhood bar and grill that the people of Plymouth can enjoy. Hermann's goal is to provide good food, good service, a friendly atmosphere and good times for their customers.

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Island, although the Coneys made at Greek Island have rapidly become the favorite of many locals.

Those looking for art need only glance up at the paintings on the high ceilings of the Greek gods enjoying their repast. The paintings are always a conversation starter at the full-service restaurant.

The menu includes American favorites along with many homemade Greek specialties including moussaka, pastitsio, spinach pie and gyros. They also serve a wide array of salads, pitas, sandwiches and burgers, all at great prices. There are American items and several specialty dishes on the menu.

The restaurant offers carry outs and has a banquet room and does catering.

Greek Island staff provide is a friendly and welcoming atmosphere and the wait staff is always prompt and courteous and locals have come to depend on the quick service.



Greek Islands is also family friendly, offering accommodations for children and families.

Hermann's Old Town Grille
195 West Liberty St.
Plymouth
(734)451-1213

Fine art might not be descriptive of the huge, drooling moose painted on the exterior wall of Hermann's, but it certainly is a statement.

This is a place that simply cannot be missed because of the exceptional atmosphere where too many unique items to list are on display along with the great food. Hermann's has been a part of the Plymouth community for decades, and for decades has been celebrated as the place to go for a good time, cold beer, a delicious burger or special menu item where fun is served as a side dish with every order.



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The menu includes a full selection of specialty burgers, fresh salads, oven-baked pizza and unique sandwiches, all made to order.

The OTB (Old Town Burger) comes in a variety of configurations, all of which have made Hermann's famous. There are also special menu feature items every day.

Owners Nick and Sally Hermann pride themselves on the comfortable, eclectic atmosphere where people can enjoy themselves and relax. The owners said they focus on family friends and fun at the restaurant.

Hermann's is open from 11 a.m. until 2 a.m. Monday through Saturday and from noon until 2 a.m. Sundays.

Karl's Cabin

6005 Gotfredson Road

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(734) 455-8450

Built in the 1940s, Karl's Cabin is truly a Michigan Made log cabin roadhouse restaurant, bar and grill. Located just minutes west of downtown Plymouth and just east of Ann Arbor, the restaurant is a favorite of patrons from throughout the area.

Guests can enjoy rustic charm, friendly service and a large menu including hand-cut grilled steaks, fresh seafood,

BBQ, fresh pasta, big salads, burgers, artisan sandwiches and daily chef-created features. Slow-roasted prime rib is served every Friday and Saturday night. Dinners are priced from \$8 to \$20 while lunch prices range from \$6-\$15.

The chef prefers to shop locally when feasible and often brings in organic and natural foods for a substantial gluten free menu. Karl's offers 20 Michigan craft beers on draft including Bell's, Founders and Short's. The extensive wine list includes 60 wines to choose from with many wines from Michigan and more than 20 wines poured by the glass.

Karl's entertainment includes dueling pianos and live bands on the weekends.

Karl's is highly recommended by diners as offering some of the finest meals in the area.

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LaBistecca
Italian Grille
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LaBistecca, a premier steak house and a favorite of diners throughout the area, also takes the art of food seriously. The restaurant offers a unique dining experience featuring Piedmontese Beef, which is recommended by the American Heart Association, exclusively. The succulent and tender steaks bring area diners back again and again. Piedmontese Beef is famous for flavor and texture while having much less fat than regular beef.

An award-winning Wine Spectator wine list at LaBistecca is certain to please every palate as diners relax in a well-appointed dining room and lounge. The restaurant is famous for offering a fine dining experience in a relaxed, yet elegant, atmosphere. Service is always excellent by a well-trained staff familiar with the menu and able to answer any questions diners might have.

Live entertainment begins at 7 p.m. in the lounge Friday



and Saturday.

Dinner is served beginning at 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and lunch service begins at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Reservations are recommended as this is one of the most popular places in the area with a well-earned reputation for excellence and superior quality.

Leo's Coney Island
41496 Ann Arbor Road
Plymouth, Mi
(734) 416-8200

The family recipe for the famous Greek Salad dressing along with the chili and other great homemade items has been the backbone of success for Leo's Coney Island. The Stassinopoulos brothers, Leo and Pete, have built a reputation for quality food and service.

Leo's Coney Island has evolved from a limited menu offering the basics of Coney Islands, fries, burgers and Greek Salads to a wide menu. Selections include a full line



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of items for the whole family including Greek specialties, breakfast, and a children's menu. Leo has made it his mission to provide the experience of a Coney Island, while also offering delicious homemade soups and family favorites.

Leo's is open from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. Sunday through Tuesday and 24 hours Wednesday through Saturdays.

NICO & VALI
744 Wing St,
Plymouth
(734) 207-7880

NICO & VALI, named for owner Paul DePalma's children, takes the art of food preparation seriously, making sure each and every dish is perfect. The restaurant offers full-service dining in a casual chic atmosphere at the location on Wing Street, just east of Main Street.



NICO & VALI's menu offers authentic Southern Italian fare with a few modern day twists. The chef uses only the freshest possible ingredients to ensure the finest flavors to create hand-crafted, off-the-menu items that are available regularly throughout the week and every weekend. The restaurant offers an extensive list of wine, beer and cocktails to accompany their dishes and carry outs are always available.

Whether dining in or "al fresco" on the beautiful outdoor patio, the service is always cheerful, efficient and prompt from the knowledgeable servers.

For entertainment and promotional information, download the NICO & VALI app.

The menu at NICO & VALI is a favorite of Plymouth residents and Hour Magazine critics.

NICO & VALI is open from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, from 11 a.m. until midnight on Friday and Saturday.

The Inn at St. John's
44045 Five Mile Road
at Sheldon Road
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(734) 414-0600

The Inn at St. John's is a Plymouth jewel. This breathtaking landmark is the premier location for overnight stays, gourmet dining, corporate conferences, weddings, receptions, executive



meetings, charity galas, and golf outings. Metro Detroit's fourth largest hotel in terms of total meeting space, St. John's welcomes both locals and travelers to experience a blend of comfort and luxury.

For an inspired dining experience in a chic, inviting atmosphere, make a date at 5ive Restaurant, located off the hotel lobby at The Inn at St. John's. Diners can enjoy a thoughtfully selected, award-winning wine list, extensive offering of local brews and al fresco dining on the terrace in season. 5ive Restaurant is open daily, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Visit www.theinnatstjohns.com to receive emails re: wine dinners, beer dinners and other special events. Reservations at: (734) 357-5700 or www.opentable.com.

For a napkin-testing burger, visit the vintage diner-style Burger Loft, located above The Inn at St. John's Pro Shop. Making burger history since summer 2013, the Burger Loft offers a fresh take on the motif of a classic burger joint. Open during golf season from 4-9 p.m. on Mondays, and from 11:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays. The loft is closed Sundays.

Station 885
885 Starkweather
Old Village,
Plymouth
(734) 459-0885

Station 885 has become a tradition throughout the Plymouth area.

After 33 years of serving great meals to families, they are obviously on the right track, according to owner Rob Costanza.

The Costanza family prides themselves on a fresh menu but never forgets the traditional dishes which have made Station 885 part of countless family events and celebrations for more than three decades.

They serve fresh Mama Mucci pasta and hand-cut steaks along with a selection of fresh fish.

Every Monday through Wednesday, the restaurant offers half-off prices on bottles of wine and there are lunch and dinner specials from the kitchen every day.

The restaurant is located adjacent to the railroad tracks in historic Old Village.

Station 885 is open from 11 a.m. until midnight Monday through Thursday and from 11 a.m. until 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

The restaurant also offers a special Sunday Brunch from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. which includes various breakfast items along with prime rib, fresh shrimp, salads, fruits and made-to-order crepes and omelets.





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